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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ, AL-JAFARI'S VISIT TO IRAN,
TERRORISM; BAGHDAD

1. SUMMARY: The major themes in the daily newspapers on July 12 were Al-Jafari's upcoming visit to Iran, the constitutional committee's preparations for drafting the constitution, and the latest developments of the security situation. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

- 1A. "The Prime Minister's new tour" (Ad-Dustoor, 7/12)

Ad-Dustoor (independent) published a front-page editorial by Bassem Al-Sheikh about Al-Jafari's expected visit to Iran and Syria:

"Al-Jafari will soon depart on a new tour to Iran and Syria. It was only recently that the Prime Minister returned from his visit to Brussels, Britain, and the United States. It appears as though our officials will always be destined to travel in order to provide a decent life for the Iraqi people. Al-Jafari's current tour is primarily aimed at solving all pending issues between Iraq and Iran. Most of these lingering issues originated from Saddam's policies against the people of Iran and Iraq. Iran wants to ratify the agreement that was signed in Algeria between the deposed Shah of Iran and Saddam Hussein regarding the border issue. This agreement, however, is suspicious because it represents a contract that was signed by two plotters who only cared about their personal interests.

During the last meeting between the Iraqi and Iranian Ministers of Defense, Iran demonstrated its willingness to offer one billion dollars to support Iraq's reconstruction, establish mutual military cooperation, and to help the Iraqi people. However, this assistance had a string attached that stated Iraq must not allow foreign troops to establish military bases on its land. The visit by the Iraqi Minister of Defense was made in preparation for Al-Jafari's visit, which will discuss the above-mentioned issues and focus on obtaining further political support.

I believe Al-Jafari's visit will yield positive results because he has strong relationships with Iranian politicians and leaders. But will his visit settle the issue of the large debts that were accumulated due to the Iraqi-Iranian war that was sparked by the deposed dictator? Will this visit resolve the numerous border issues that have long provided a source for bilateral tension? Will the visit solve the issue of prisoners of war and other missing persons? Will Al-Jafari's visit lead to an agreement regarding the one hundred and eleven Iraqi planes sitting on the tarmac in Iran? We believe that these are the most important issues that should be discussed during the upcoming visit because obtaining political support and cooperation on border security have already been discussed at length."

- 1B. "Blair's call and Talabani's suggestions for ending terrorism" (Al-Adala, 7/12)

Al-Adala (affiliated with SCIRI) published a last-page column by Hamdi Hassan about terrorism in Iraq:

"The London bombings will not come to pass without a real strategic review of the international strategy against terrorism. The bombings in London hold the same importance as the September 11th attacks. British Prime Minister Tony Blair stated that the motives for terrorism must be eradicated because such terror is aimed at distorting Islam. Blair added that procedures must be implemented to reinforce mutual understandings between the world's religions and to proceed forward in working to achieve peace in the Middle East.

In the wake of the London bombings, this suggestion appears aimed at searching for treatments that can restore the social, economic, and political balance in Middle Eastern countries. Many countries in this region are accused of being a primary source for spawning terrorism. Most importantly, this suggestion is aimed at looking for the motives rather than results. All international efforts must be united, in coordination with the Middle Eastern countries, to root out terrorism. These terrorists are exporting their crimes every day to the Middle East and around the world with the objective of disseminating more horror through killing and bloodshed. In Iraq, however, the situation is more difficult because of the daily presence of terrorist operations. Nonetheless, we think that Blair's suggestions are worthy and we support the call to establish a strategy that will mobilize international efforts to implement practical solutions to end terrorism. Meanwhile, President Jalal Talabani recently called for holding a meeting for all Arab Ministers of Interior to declare their united opposition to terrorism. Such a meeting is especially pertinent since many of these countries are suspected of supporting and financing terrorism. In fact, Iraq's Minister of Defense, Sadoun Al-Dulaimi, revealed that Iraq has evidence that proves certain countries are involved in spreading terror in Iraq. Without a doubt, the most hurtful wounds in Iraq are being inflicted by Arab terrorism. The Arab countries, their media outlets, religious institutions, and social organizations all possess the safety valve that can stop terrorism in Iraq. This fire of terrorism will be extended to burn the Middle East and other countries. For this reason, these countries must respond to the suggestions of Blair and Talabani. A new strategy must be implemented to fight the plague of the current era. Iraq must become the first laboratory where those countries accused of supporting terrorism can prove their innocence. If such countries refuse, we will be forced to reveal secrets for the sake of peace and the protection of nations."

SATTERFIELD